

REMARKS

The claims are amended as set forth above. Accordingly, claims 1 and 3-17 remain for consideration in this application.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that the restriction/election requirement has been withdrawn and that the claims of Group II are rejoined with Group I. Thus, claims 1 and 3-17 are under consideration in this Office Action.

Applicants also wish to thank the Examiner for conducting a telephone interview on August 14, 2008 with the undersigned attorney. During the interview, claims 1, 4 and 11-16 were discussed. The Examiner explained different changes which were suggested to be made to the claims. Further, the Examiner faxed a set of proposed claim amendments to the undersigned.

The proposed changes from the Examiner have been incorporated into the instant claim amendments in their entirety.

Claims 1-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite.

As noted above, in the amendments to the claims set forth above, the Examiner's proposed claim amendments have been incorporated in their entirety. Additionally, minor formal amendments have been made in order to correct grammatical and idiomatic errors.

Accordingly, it is submitted that the amendments to the pending claims address each and every issue raised in the above rejection. Thus, it is submitted that the amendments to the claims have overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

Additionally, Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the indication that the claims contain allowable subject matter as noted in the Office Action.

In view of the amendments to the claims, and the remarks above, Applicants submit that the rejection has been overcome and respectfully request that claims 1 and 3-17 be allowed.

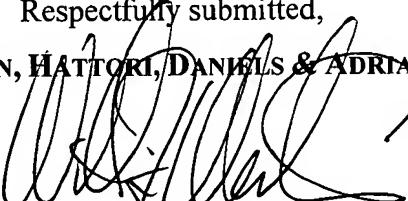
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and accompanying remarks, it is submitted that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. A prompt and favorable reconsideration of the rejection and an indication of allowability of all pending claims are earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner believes that there are issues remaining to be resolved in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite and complete prosecution of this case.

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,
WESTERMAN, HATTORI, DANIELS & ADRIAN, LLP



William F. Westerman
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 29,988
Telephone: (202) 822-1100
Facsimile: (202) 822-1111

WFW/dlt